GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3189
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2000
PACKAGE FOR TEA GROWERS
BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared a package for the small tea growers in few States in the Southern region of the country in a bid to cushion them against the fluctuating tea market and other seasonal hardships;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether the Government contemplate to extend the package to the small tea growers in other States too, particularly in the North eastern States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a)&(b) In order to resolve the problem of low price realisation at the auctions, Government has implemented a Price Subsidy Scheme through the Tea Board w.e.f 1.5.2000 for the small growers of tea (holding tea gardens upto 10.12 ha.) under which subsidy is provided for an amount equal to the shortfall between the auction price and Rs.55/- per kg. The maximum subsidy under the Scheme was initially Rs. 5/- per kg and this has been enhanced to Rs. 8/- per kg with effect from 24.7.2000.

(c) & (d) The Price Subsidy Scheme is applicable throughout the country including the North East, subject to the conditionalities mentioned.